

## Fleming, Sheila

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**From:** (b) (6)(b) (6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2014 7:14 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Joyce  
**Cc:** Fleming, Sheila; (b) (6)(b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Air quality concerns

*Joyce,*

*I am not impressed with the responses which seem to be nothing more than excuses about why EPA cannot explain to GSA some of the basics of what is needed to protect the staff's health. Not impressed with GSA, and definitely displeased with EPA's lack of understanding, forceful engagement, and getting actual results. It is embarrassing when we have been warning EPA management that we could have a recurrence of the 1980's health problems when remodeling and now that it has occurred we get nothing but stalling and delays and ignoring issues.*

*Furthermore, I am not impressed with the letter from Marykay. Details included below to show you why this is not impressive and does not give me much feeling of trust. It worries me that Marykay's letter states that --*

### EPA's Request to GSA

When the team met to review OEA's concerns, we asked the GSA project manager to discuss OEA's requests with the GSA Contracting Officer (CO). Specifically, we asked that the CO request the actions below of the lessor even though the terms of the lease are being met.

1. Ask the lessor to lower the testing limit on the contaminants. Currently the testing protocol does not require that TCE be separated out from other VOCs rather it requires that the total VOCs be below 500mg. This protocol was established by the LEED consultant and is being met by the lessor.

*While the data shows the following information.*

Sampling Location	TVOCs (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )	PM10 Particulates (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )	CO (ppm)	Formaldehyde (ppb)
Date & Time	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8:00 – 12:00	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8:02 – 12:04	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8:03 – 12:05	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8:00 – 12:00
Floor 14 GIS Room– Interior Room near NW corner of floor	<200	5	0.3	<20
<b>LEED Maximum Allowable</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>

< = less than

## CONCLUSIONS

Results from air testing on the newly renovated 14<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Park Place Building, located at Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, indicate that the space had concentrations of carbon dioxide, formaldehyde, TVOCs, PM10 and 4-PCH that were below the maximum allowable concentrations established by LEED®.

*Marykay, or whoever wrote the letter you sent out, could not even get the units straight, she states “500 mg” instead of µg, and it is not only not “500 mg”, but should be 500 µg/meter<sup>3</sup>. If that letter was supposed to show me that I should trust her, or EPA management in general, or GSA, it did nothing more than irritate me and reinforce that the move group is run by nothing but incompetent people who cannot understand the issues, and simply want to continue on a power trip to force the move to look good and to show that LEED is the the EPA goal no matter what reality may be. In my opinion they have failed in multiple levels and continue digging in fast with the useless responses about how the contracts were carried out.*

*On a further note, I want you to know that I have been out of the EPA offices, and specifically the new OEA remodeled offices in the 14<sup>th</sup> floor for almost a week, and I have not, even once, had any problems with weird lip or throat sensations, hoarseness, or been smelling weird odors like I do when I am there.*

*I hope that future responses and actions from EPA management and proposed changes to improve the issues of air will be more substantial and with less empty words than what I have seen so far.*

*I do appreciate your engaging the staff by your email, but not the supporting letters or the content.*

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**From:** Kelly, Joyce

**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 8:40 AM

**To:** R10-OEA Mail Group

**Cc:** Voytilla, Marykay; Greaves, Natasha; Chu, Ed

**Subject:** Air quality concerns

Hello OEA,

I, members of your management team, and our Health and Safety Program have been working with OMP to raise and resolve air quality concerns that some of you on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor have expressed. This week, a meeting was held between OMP and OEA management and H&S staff to review the current state of air quality information and to

determine if additional actions are recommended. Following that meeting, May Kay prepared and sent the summary below to Region 10 Union officials.

- All air quality data received to date is posted on the Park Place Remodel website Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) webpage and available for review
- Each floor passed LEED IAQ requirements prior to occupancy as required by the existing lease between GSA and Washington Holdings (Lessor) for EPA space in the Park Place building
- GSA determined that the Lessor is meeting the terms of the lease for air quality data collection and therefore declined to go forward with a request to the Lessor to analyze additional constituents or take additional samples beyond the required LEED protocol (see attachment 1)
- As indicated in attachment 1, GSA requested enhanced ventilation of the Lessor on newly remodeled floors. As this action would be beyond the requirements of the lease, the Lessor responded with the cost to the government to do so (see attachment 2)
- GSA clarified that floors 14 and 15 did receive one full week of enhanced ventilation at no cost to the government (i.e., 24/7 venting) due to the water leak on floor 15 (see attachment 3)
- GSA reviewed ventilation requirements of the lease and determined that the Lessor is meeting and in some cases exceeding the lease requirements (see attachment 2)
- To the extent possible, the Union has been kept apprised of employee concerns and actions taken by OMP and OEA management and health & safety staff. At the last Labor Management Partnership Forum H&S committee meeting, there was no consensus reached regarding the need for additional air quality actions.
- Flex cubes have been provided on other floors for staff use on a temporary basis if impacted by construction noise, odors, etc. In addition, four flex cubes have been set-up on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor so that staff have the opportunity to work in an un-remodeled space/flex cube.
- Some employees remain concerned about indoor air quality. A FOIA has been submitted to Region 10 by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. The FOIA requests, among other things, information about indoor air quality.

The remodel team will work with GSA to verify that the ventilation system on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor is functioning as designed and working properly. OEA management also raised concerns regarding the temperature and air flow in the Elwha conference room. Yesterday, OMP reported that building management reset the fan terminal unit (air conditioning unit) in Elwha. That fix is currently being tested. No additional actions, beyond those identified above, are being pursued.

Joyce

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